

P. Grafeld, Director

Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part (X) In Full

Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

4/4/78

AS 026

## MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

DATE: April 4, 1978

SUBJECT: Unofficial Detention Centers

PARTICIPANTS: Mr. and Mrs. Alvarez Rojas  
F.A. Harris, Political Officer, Buenos Aires

PLACE: U.S. Embassy, Buenos Aires

|               |                        |      |      |
|---------------|------------------------|------|------|
| DISTRIBUTION: | ARA/ECA - Mr. Bumpus   | AMB  | ECOM |
|               | HA/HR - Ms. Bova       | DCM  | CONS |
|               | ARA - Mr. Lister       | POL  | ICA  |
|               | INR/RAR - Mr. Buchanan | POLR | DAO  |
|               | INR/OIL - Mr. Weissman |      |      |

1. Mr. Alvarez Rojas, who is the father of a young man who disappeared in late 1976, recently visited Buenos Aires from Mendoza and related the following story. We have no way of evaluating this, but the information coincides with persistent rumors of unlisted, unofficial detention centers scattered about Argentina.

2. Mr. Alvarez Rojas stated that the son of a Mrs. Altenburg of San Rafael, Mendoza Province disappeared shortly after the military takeover in March 1976. Mrs. Altenburg was for a number of years the caretaker of the Centro Cultural Israelita in Mendoza. Recently a young man came to the Altenburg home in San Rafael and informed her that he had been held prisoner with her son for over a year in a large "cantera" (quarry) near Trelew, Chubut Province. He stated that her son's name in captivity is Roberto Rios. He reported that no one in the quarry was called by his correct name--everyone was called either by number or by a pseudonym. Mr. Alvarez Rojas stated that Mrs. Altenburg has just left for Trelew to try to find her son. He doubted that she will be allowed to get near to the detention facility, if she can locate it.

UNCLASSIFIED

82 D 103

17405

UNCLASSIFIED

2

3. Mr. Alvarez Rojas stated that other unlisted detention centers for P.E.N. detainees that he had heard of were:

- A major Air Force installation in Quilmes, Buenos Aires Province, which sits on a street that runs from the town plaza to the river.
- A military facility in the town of Campana, Province of Buenos Aires.
- Magdalena military prison.
- Campo de Mayo.
- A small camp outside of Mendoza where some 20 prisoners are held.

Drafted by: POL:FAHarris:gcr

Clearances: POL:WHHallman  
DAO:COLCoughlin

UNCLASSIFIED